

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~An~~ Isolated pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiates to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages and which does not give rise to functional gametes, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing a genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages and which do not give rise to functional gametes, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).

16. (currently amended) A Genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells produced by the method of claim 15.

17. (currently amended) The stem cells of claim 16 which are ~~is~~ a human cells.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (canceled)